

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A body mount support bracket, including a central body portion having a pair of leg portions depending therefrom, is secured to a frame portion of a vehicle body and frame assembly by flexing the leg portions from a first, unstressed position to a second, stressed position so as to create internal stresses within the body mount support bracket. Then, the central body portion and the leg portions of the body mount support bracket are secured to the frame portion, such as by welding, adhesives, and the like. The flexing of the leg portions is performed to create internal stresses within the body mount support bracket that remain after the body mount support bracket has been secured to the frame assembly. These residual internal stresses are effective to increase the strength and rigidity of the body mount support bracket beyond what would normally be obtained if the body mount support bracket was secured to the frame assembly side rail in an unstressed condition.